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meteoric constitution of the universe. Especially in October, 1879, he gave a series of eight propositions in Cosmical Physics. At an informal scientific meeting at Harvard University he stated five others, which have been since printed in the Appendix to his "Lectures on Ideality in Science." They were given rather as a basis for criticism and discussion than as fully proved. They are founded upon the theory of Mayer, which is advocated by Sir William Thomson, that solar heat, and in part planetary heat, are supplied by the collision of meteors with the sun and planets. Small portions of matter in space cool and become invisible solid meteors. These, by their impact with the sun, produce the violent commotions of the sun's surface. A portion of the earth's heat comes from the sun, another portion directly from the impact of meteors with the earth's atmosphere. The two portions, he afterwards shows, are equal.

These views are developed more fully in his "Lectures," recently published. The meteors, as Professor Peirce believed, come from the outer portions of the condensing solar nebula. In the course of development an outer shell was left, which furnished the matter to be collected, in small masses. The smallest become meteors, the larger comets. Their numbers are enormously great. Arranged according to perihelion distances, the number of comets or meteors coming within a given distance of the sun varies directly as the distance. The heat of Jupiter and Saturn comes from the collisions with those planets. The interior of the earth may be liquid throughout, and the limits set to the lengths of the geologic ages may reasonably be greatly extended.

Any attempt to outline the history of the solar system is sure to lead, in the present state of knowledge, into serious difficulties. Some of the positions assumed by Professor Peirce, especially Mayer's theory of the source of the sun's heat, will be contested. Even if some portions are not found true, the parts would not all fall together, and we may well leave them all to the discussion that he invited for them.

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS.

J. LEWIS DIMAN, D.D.

J. LEWIS DIMAN, D.D. was born at Bristol, Rhode Island, May 1, 1831. He was prepared for college in his native place, and graduated at Brown University in 1851. He subsequently spent several years in study at German Universities, and then entered the Theological Seminary at Andover, where he graduated in 1856. In the autumn of that year he became pastor of the First Congregational Church in Fall River, and, in 1860, pastor of the Harvard Church in Brookline. In 1864 he succeeded Professor Gammell as Professor of History and Political Economy in Brown University, and filled this office till his death. Several attempts were made to secure his services at Harvard University, and a negotiation to that effect, which gave those most interested in it strong hope of success, was in progress during the last weeks of his life. He died in Providence, after a short and acute illness, on the third day of February, 1881.

It is difficult to form a just estimate of Professor Diman on account, not of the scantiness, but of the wealth of the materials for our appreciation. Like many other men who are known through the press or by the living voice, he seemed to have no specialty. But, as is the case with very few, it is because he excelled in so many departments that we cannot define his specialty. He would have won distinguished reputation by as successful work in either of several departments as he has wrought in all of them. As a preacher he had few equals, whether in elaborate thought, in the expression of devotional sentiment, in blended grace and strength of style, or in the charm of an elocution, calm and gentle, yet for this none the less forceful and effective. As a student, teacher, and writer of history, he manifested at once the patience and thoroughness of a keen investigator, the vivid imagination and lambent fancy without which the man of extensive research becomes a mere Dryasdust, and the capacity of interesting alike college classes, popular audiences, and readers of the highest intelligence and culture. In philosophy he was not only an adept, but an earnest and profound thinker; and in many of his writings there occur, on the old, yet ever new, themes that underlie all thought and being, such discussions as might make it in some quarters a subject of regret that he had not bestowed his life-work on these themes. At the same time he treated political subjects as matters, not merely of theory, but of imminent and vital practical importance, in such a way as would have befitted a man who had been embodying Christian ethics in a long and varied handling of public affairs.

This versatility, not of pursuit, but of excellence, was due in part, no doubt, to a native breadth of mental hospitality, which could neither exclude nor slight any subject or interest worthy of its genial reception, and in part to a rare capacity for continuous labor, and to a life so ordered, equally by external conditions and by his own wise economy of time, as to afford large opportunity for profound and concentrated intellectual industry.

So far as we know, Professor Diman has published little except occasional sermons, lectures, and addresses, which, however, are not fugitive or ephemeral, except in form. He must have left full courses of lectures and other writings, which will be gladly welcomed by his many friends and admirers, and cannot but extend his reputation in time and space far beyond the limits prescribed to it by his own modesty and reticence.

Professor Diman was respected, esteemed, and beloved by all who knew him. In the city of his residence he was well known as the friend of the poor, the wise counsellor and ready helper in every good work, the pioneer in every movement for the instruction, elevation, and improvement of the community. In all the relations of life, and in his whole social intercourse, he had the manners, bore the character, and breathed the spirit, of the "highest style of man," — the Christian gentleman.

SAMUEL SHERMAN HALDEMAN.*

Professor Samuel Sherman Haldeman died on Friday, the 17th of September, at his home in Chickies, Pennsylvania, aged sixty-eight years. He was born near Columbia, Pa., in 1812, and graduated at Dickinson College in 1830. In 1836 he was connected with the Geological Survey of New Jersey, and the following year with that of Pennsylvania. He was Professor of Natural History in the University of Pennsylvania from 1851 to 1855, and in 1855 took the same chair in Delaware College, and also that of Professor of Geology and Chemistry in the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. He afterward became Professor of Philology in the University of Pennsylvania. For many years he worked with great zeal and success in entomology and conchology, and published various memoirs, describing new species and illustrating the broader subject of geographical distribution. Among these are his work on the "Freshwater Mollusca of the United States," his "Zoological Contributions," and a paper on the Coleoptera Longicornia of the United States. Later he devoted himself especially to philological studies, phonetics, and orthography. His "Analytic Orthography" obtained for him in England the Trevelyan prize in 1858. He paid much attention to the Indian languages of North

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* From the American Journal of Science.